

DECEMBER

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ZC School
celebrates
American
Education Week

INSIDE
Elba Tigers win
Thanksgiving
Basketball
Tourney

INSIDE
Santa visits Elba
for annual
Christmas parade

The Elba Clipper

Volume 108, Number 25

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, December 2, 2004

1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

Coffee County conducts automatic recount of votes

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Coffee County joined those across the state Monday, Nov. 29, when it conducted the automatic recount of votes regarding the Amendment Two issue.

According to law, if a vote

difference is 1/2 of one percent, an automatic recount is forced, and the Amendment Two vote from the Nov. 2nd general election fell into that category.

On Monday, Nov. 29, 10 poll workers gathered around five voting machines (two poll

workers for each machine) at the Coffee County Farm Center and physically fed all ballots cast during the general election through the machines.

Poll workers Sylvia Padgett and Mack King were among those physically feeding ballots into the voting machines during Monday's vote recount.

Probate Judge William Gammill said this was to double check the count. On Tuesday, Gammill said it appears Coffee County's vote was off by about 12 or 13 votes; however, he said this would not be enough to statistically change anything in Coffee County.

The percentage will remain 52% yes and 48% no for Coffee County.

"We had a good recount, and our poll workers did an excellent job," Gammill said.

He said the recount took five working hours which meant the poll workers were feeding approximately 3,500 ballots per hour.

Gammill said the majority of adjustments found during the recount came from absentee ballots which are always more apt to have problems.

Elsie Clark enjoys special family reunion

Mrs. Elsie Clark of Elba has roots far away from Elba, and recently had a chance to celebrate with relatives from her birth place.

Clark, who came to Elba in 1944 from New Zealand, hasn't returned to her original home during all those 60 years - nor seen any of her New Zealand family members - until this past November 21st when two relatives came to America to visit her and her American family.

"Mother cried when I left New Zealand and I cried for a while after I got to America", Clark admitted.

She recounted the many hours her nephew and his wife would be on airplanes at today's faster travel speeds as they returned to New Zealand and added, "I was a long, long way from home and my mother in 1944".

Her nephew and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Barry Anderson, spent a joyous three days with Elsie and

her husband James Clark. Also joining them was the Clarks' daughter, Cheryl Clark Kent and family members. Son Richard was unable to join them during the reunion, due to his conflicting work schedules.

She recalls being close to her sister, Barry's mother, and dragging the little Barry around with her as a toddler. He was about six when she left for America.

The Andersons had been to England to visit with their son and had spent some time in Orlando, FL before visiting with the Clarks en route back "down under".

Along with children, cousins, and the Andersons, Mrs. Clark said "we had the best time!"

She has two more nephews in New Zealand but no other close living relatives.

On November 22nd the Elba City Council took action on several items in addition to moving forward with the airport upgrade and expansion as was described in The Elba Clipper last week.

Gerald Tucker was reappointed to serve on the Elba Housing Authority Board. He is a long time member of this board and had agreed to serve another term, according to Mayor James Grimes.



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS IN ELBA...The City of Elba and Elba Chamber of Commerce helped local residents kickoff the holiday season last Saturday, Nov. 27, with the annual Elba Christmas Festival. Although the day was cut short due to stormy weather, many, many residents filled the downtown streets of Elba during the morning hours to search for Christmas gifts, fill up on yummy treats, watch and listen to the entertainers, and of course, enjoy one another's company. Miss Elba Lyndsay Lawford was among those roaming around the square Saturday morning. She is shown above holding Kate Hudson. The annual Christmas Parade was held Monday evening, Nov. 29, after being postponed Saturday. Scenes from the festival and parade can be found on Pg. 13.

Elba City Council votes to move forward with demolition project at old Elba School building

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

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The council also voted to move forward with demolishing the Jr High wing of the old Elba school. Grimes told council members the building was unfit for use, needing a new roof, new windows, etc., and these would cost more than the building would be worth.

The city hopes to find someone who wants to salvage the bricks, thus saving taxpayers from the cost of the demolition.

Grimes briefly reviewed first month of the fiscal year's city financial statement. He noted that expenses are higher than budgeted but not alarmingly high. A quick review of the expenses show that gas and oil expense for both the police and street departments is over budget.

Sales and Use taxes are up for the month over the budgeted amount by 15 percent.

The council approved a membership list for the Elba Volunteer Fire Department to qualify the members for Workman's Comp Insurance.

City Clerk Wayne Grantham noted the city still has two trash trucks operating eight hours a day in an effort to catch up following the recent hurricane. He also explained there was a technical delay in the levee modification work at Highway 87 North and this has delayed the closing of the highway. According to Grantham the problems have been solved and work should begin sometime between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Area Happenings

THE 2004 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS continue Friday, Dec. 3, with semi-final action. The Bradley Bulldogs will travel to Marengo County to battle the Sweet Water Bulldogs. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

THE COFFEE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE will host a Tasting Tea and Recipe and Nature Crafts Contest, sponsored by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System on Monday, Dec. 6, at 6 p.m., in the community room of the county complex in New Brockton. The public is invited to attend the Tasting Tea to taste all the different recipes entered in the recipe contest. There will be a small admission fee. For more information regarding contest deadlines, contact the Coffee County Extension office at (334) 894-5596.

THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE, PEA AND YELLOW RIVERS Clean Water Partnership Steering Committee and the Choctawhatchee River Basin Committee will meet jointly Thursday, Dec. 9, from 2-4 p.m., at the Coffee County Farm Center, located on Highway 84 in New Brockton, Ala. The Watershed Management Plan that is being developed for these basins will be discussed at this meeting. Anyone interested in the future of the watershed is invited to come.

THE ELBA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE will host a Silent Sensational Christmas Bake-Off and Tasting Tea Sunday, Dec. 12. Categories of entry will be cakes, pies, candies and cookies. A winner will be named in each category as well as an overall winner. Entry forms can be picked up at the Elba Chamber office, and the deadline to enter will be Monday, Dec. 6 (there will be a small entry fee). Judging for the bake-off will be held Sunday, Dec. 11. The Chamber's Tasting Tea will be Sunday, Dec. 12, from 1:30-3:30 p.m., where everyone will have an opportunity to taste the prize-winning desserts along with a lot of other goodies and door prizes. Tickets for the open house can be purchased at the Elba Chamber of Commerce office, Bradley's Market, Tanglewood and The Elba Christmas Festival.



L-R: Mrs. Barry Anderson, James Clark, Elsie Clark, Barry Anderson, Cheryl Clark Kent

Several awards presented during 2004 Farm City Week banquet

The annual Coffee County Farm City Awards banquet was held Thursday, Nov. 18, at the Farm Center in New Brockton with persons from both the agricultural and industrial work forces being honored.

The J.A. Wise & Son Farms Inc. received the honor of being named Coffee County's 2004 Farm of Distinction. This farm and ranch is located and headquartered on Alabama Highway 87 just inside the Coffee County line south of Samson and north of Elba.

James Wise serves as president of the corporation with J. Allen Wise as vice president and Joyce F. Wise as secretary treasurer.

The farms consist of 3,500 acres of farm, row crop, timber and pastureland. It has 500 commercial cows of mostly Limousin breeding; 600 acres of cotton; 200 acres of soybeans; and 200 acres of peanuts. The corporation also owns a tractor dealership in Samson, Ala. in which Allen Wise runs as part of his duties.

Farm city committee members said the James Wise Farm and



The James Wise Family accepts the 2004 Farm of Distinction award which was presented to J.A. Wise and Son Farms Inc. for 2004. Family members include James and Joyce Wise; Allen, Mary Ashley, John Allen and Olivia Lane Wise; Amy, Chip, Cristy Allen (Allee) and Catherine Maddox Coble.

Ranch operation has always been a place all of the Wiregrass area could look at with pride and admiration. The family works hard to not only be profitable but also to keep their place nice and be good stewards of the land they have worked so hard to obtain.

Another big award for the evening was Business of the Year which went to Cook Chevrolet/Cook Ford of Elba.

Cook Chevrolet of Elba opened in 1967 after General Motors approved Drexel Cook as a Chevrolet dealer. Prior to this Elba had been without a franchised car dealer for many years.

Drexel's son, Jimmy, was approved as a Chevrolet dealer in 1983, and he bought the business from his father. In 1997, he was approved as a Ford Motor Company dealer and purchased the Ford dealership in Elba.

Jimmy currently owns and operates both franchises.

Cook Chevrolet and Cook Ford together employ approximately 30 people and have annual gross sales of 20 to 25 million dollars.

Other major awards presented during the banquet included Live-stock production (three farms honored); broiler of the year; pullet grower of the year; hen grower of the year; two peanut awards; a cotton award; outstanding conservation farmer; a forestry award and industry of the year. (Pictures of these award winners can be found on Pages 2 and 14).

Farm City Week is observed annually in Coffee County. It is designed to encourage an enlightened understanding between rural and urban residents.

Elba Chamber of Commerce director Kaye Whitworth presents the Business of the Year award to Joey Daniels and Larry Weeks, employees of Cook Chevrolet/Ford.

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS
with Ferrin Cox

Dan Rather is stepping down from his anchor position with CBS News. While he and the network people will swear this is not related to the George W. Bush National Guard records happenings, many of us will openly snicker at the denial. You will recall 60 Minutes Wednesday was reportedly given faked documents on President Bush's National Guard service and Rather reported them as real, and continued to stand by their account for some time after the facts were pointed out to them and to the world. We predicted right here in this column at the time that heads would roll at CBS News, once the dust had settled... now it is happening. Each of us in this business need to remain keenly aware that we are not larger than life itself and our personal opinions need to be clearly marked as "opinion."

The case of the pro basketball player climbing into the stands after an inate fan is tragic. While all the players involved have been punished, and justly so, something also needs to be done about fans who actually throw things at players for the opposing team. In this case we have heard that the accused offending fan has a police record for not being nice. If fans continue to get more violent with their actions, and more and more violence is allowed by team members, both on and off the court or playing field, we may see screens between the games and the fans. Or worse, unbreakable glass. Then security guards can try to control the fans while game officials and coaches monitor the actions of the wayward players.

The National Guard troops from Elba who were recently activated should get to spend Christmas at home after all. Originally we understood they would be deployed to Iraq before then but last week were told it would be later and hopefully they would be home for the Christmas holidays. On their behalf, we encourage our readers to pray for their safety and the continued safety of those already defending world freedom in the battle zones.

The recount on Amendment #2 began Monday of this week. Of course in Coffee County, it was also over on Monday. The end results was about 12 votes, mostly yes votes. Coffee County was one of the few counties in which the Amendment carried originally. Judge Bill Gamill explained the extra votes as those which were either marked with an unapproved marker, marked outside the block or for some other reason the machine wouldn't pick it up on the counter. However they were caught on the manual part of the recount. Now we will see what happens statewide. As most of us predicted early on, the national headlines read that Alabama voters refused to remove old segregation wording from the constitution. We saw it again in one of the big nation-

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, Nov. 22, 2004, investigated the following incidents: one criminal mischief, one assault, one theft of property, one receiving stolen property, two for possession of marijuana, two for possession of drug paraphernalia, two for driving under the influence, two for possession of a controlled substance, two family disputes, one domestic violence, one suspicious activity and one harassment.

The following arrests were made: two for failure to appear, one for possession of marijuana, three for driving under the influence, two for possession of a controlled substance, one for domestic violence, one for possession of drug paraphernalia and one for public intoxication. Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: one for a suspended driver's license, two for speeding and one for driving without first obtaining a driver's license.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows: MONDAY, NOV. 22 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to the Troy Hwy. across from Clark Furniture. (4:35 p.m.); Disturbance (crowd) reported on Jackson St. (9:22 p.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to Martin Luther King Dr. at Farris Ave. (10:39 p.m.).

TUESDAY, NOV. 23 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1403 Smith Ave. (4:21 a.m.); Routine activity.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 24 - River stage 7.18 feet (6:04 a.m.); Elba Fire Department dispatched to the Shell Station for a

dumpster fire (7:10 p.m.); Disturbance (noise) reported near 871 Cedar Lane Dr. (11:58 p.m.).

THURSDAY, NOV. 25 - Fight reported in the area of Adkison St. and Claxton Ave. (7:09 p.m.); Domestic disturbance reported at 1550 Reese Ave. (7:11 p.m.); Domestic disturbance reported at 1109 Neil Grantham Dr. (10:18 p.m.).

FRIDAY, NOV. 26 - River stage - 9.95 feet (7:00 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to a wreck on Hwy. 134 at Ino Baptist Church (7:42 p.m.); Disturbance (noise) reported on Jackson St. (8:59 p.m.); Domestic disturbance reported at 1716 Martin Luther King Dr. (11:23 p.m.); Disturbance (noise) reported on Hwy. 84 E. near County Rd. 502 (10:37 p.m.).

SATURDAY, NOV. 27 - Coffee County EMS dispatched to Putnam St. (6:56 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 279 County Rd. 355 (7:08 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 1026 Teresa St. (8:27 a.m.).

SUNDAY, NOV. 28 - River stage - 10.35 feet (6:09 a.m.); Coffee County EMS dispatched to 617 Mullins Apts. (6:18 a.m.).

CALL CRIMESTOPPERS @ 897-3881 TO REPORT A CRIME & REMAIN ANONYMOUS

The Elba Clipper

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$19 per year
6 months - \$10, including city & state tax
Alabama Counties - \$21 per year - including tax
6 months - \$11
Outside Alabama - \$24 per year - 6 months - \$13



PEANUT AWARD...Caylor Farms received the Peanut Award for the 50-250 Acre category at the 2004 Coffee County Farm City banquet. The award was sponsored by Sessions Peanut Company. The Caylor Farm is located in New Brockton and consists of Bill and Sharon Caylor, their daughter, Faith, and Bill's parents, Guy and Margulene Caylor.



PEANUT AWARD...James Stephens Jr. received the Peanut Award for the 250+ Acre category at the 2004 Coffee County Farm City banquet. The award was sponsored by Sessions Peanut Company. James Stephens is a fourth generation farmer, and he entered his 25th year of peanut farming in 2004. He and his wife, Marilyn, also enjoy raising cattle as a hobby.



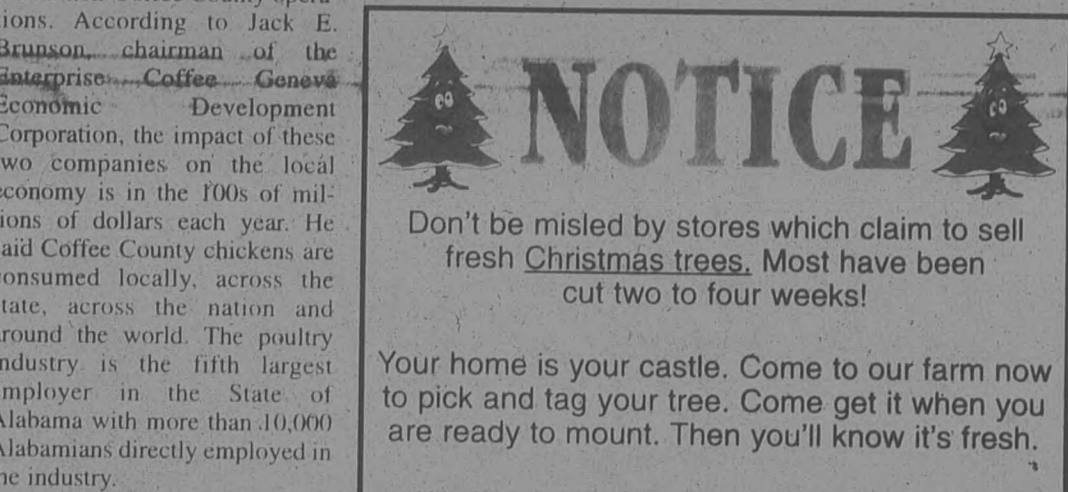
COTTON AWARD...C & M Farms, owned by Cecil and Max Patterson, received the Cotton Award at the 2004 Coffee County Farm City banquet. The award was sponsored by Covington Gin Inc. This year, Cecil and Max planted 1,200 acres of cotton. In addition to planting and harvesting their own cotton, they custom harvest approximately 4,000 acres in the surrounding counties.



2004 OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION FARMER...Rick Nicholson of Elba received this award at the 2004 Coffee County Farm City banquet. Nicholson received this award from the Coffee County Soil and Water Conservation District because he has demonstrated a desire and commitment to the conservation and development of soil, water and wildlife. Rick's wife, Debra, is a program technician for the Farm Service Agency in New Brockton.



INDUSTRY OF THE YEAR...Pilgrim's Pride and Wayne Farms were selected as co-winners of this award at the 2004 Coffee County Farm City banquet. The two companies represent the area's largest manufacturing employer. Together, Pilgrim's Pride and Wayne Farms employ approximately 1,800 people.



Additional 2004 Farm City award pictures are located on Page 14!

BULLETIN BOARD

• ABUSING CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES THROUGH CHRIST A.R.M.S. addition recovery ministry services - Thurs. 7 p.m. - Ino Baptist Church. Call 565-9970 or visit the web site: www.abusingchemicals.com

• SOCIAL SECURITY REP. Courthouse, 4th Tues. 12:30-1:30 Call (334) 897-7213

• ROTARY CLUB Tuesday @ Noon-First First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

• ELBA CITY COUNCIL - 2nd & 4th Monday 6 p.m. City Hall

• WATER & ELECTRIC - Tuesday following 2nd Monday 6 p.m. - City Hall

• ELBA MINISTERIAL ASSN. - Tues. 8 a.m. Elba United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

• GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP every Monday 6:30 p.m. Elba United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

• ELBA CITY SCHOOL BOARD - 1st Thurs. 5:30 p.m. - Supr. Office

• AMERICAN LEGION - 1st Tuesday of every month 7:00 p.m. Legion Hall, Troy Hwy.

• MASONIC LODGE 170 - 1st & 3rd Monday of each month 7 p.m. - 1st Banquet Room @ Elba High School

• VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER - Mon. Fri. 8:12 noon @ 12:30 - 4:30 New Brockton @ Farm Center Complex 894-5858

• COFFEE COUNTY COON HUNTERS ASSN. - 3rd Sat. 3 p.m. Club House

• COFFEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN - 3rd Wed. Noon Colony Inn, Enterprise

• ELBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY - 2nd Thursday at noon, Driscoll Hangar at the Airport

• AARP meets every 3rd Tuesday night of the month

• ELBA ATHLETIC CLUB - 1st & 3rd Monday - 7 p.m. - Elba High boys locker room

• NEW SEASONS STUDY CLUB - Every 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The space made possible by National Security Insurance Co.

WARNING!!
Check with local law enforcement agency on the legitimacy of organizations seeking donations during this season of the year.

We have "No Problem" saving you money.

When you insure both your car and home with us, through Auto-Owners Insurance Company, we'll save you money! Stop in, or call us today for a "No Problem" insurance check-up.

Auto-Owners Insurance
Life Home Car Business
24/7 toll-free
Ronnie K. Young, Agent
Southeast Ins. & Real Estate
Elba, AL 36323
(334) 897-3431

NOTICE
Don't be misled by stores which claim to sell fresh Christmas trees. Most have been cut two to four weeks!

Your home is your castle. Come to our farm now to pick and tag your tree. Come get it when you are ready to mount. Then you'll know it's fresh.

We have premium grade VIRGINIA PINE, HYBRID CYPRESS and FRASER FIR. We have served this area for 21 years. There must be a reason!

WISER TREE FARM
5 1/2 Miles South of Elba on Hwy. 87
(334) 897-6284

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION FOR EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION FACILITY AND POSSIBLE IMPACT TO WETLANDS.

The USDA, Rural Development has been requested to do an environmental assessment in connection with a REDLG application sponsored by the Covington Electric Cooperative, Andalusia, Alabama for Kelley Foods, Inc., Coffee County, Alabama. The purpose of the project is to expand the production facility. The specific elements of this proposed action include the construction of a 10,780 square foot expansion for production purposes.

If implemented, the proposed action would directly or indirectly impact the wetlands in the following described areas:

The SW1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 24, Township 5 North, Range 19 East in Coffee County, Alabama, LESS AND EXCEPT, 8 acres on the South side of said forty. Containing, in the aggregate, 32 acres more or less.

ALSO all that part of the NW1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 24, Township 5 North, Range 19 East, lying South of the paved Packing House Road, as the same is presently located, containing 4 acres, more or less.

ALSO, all that part of a parcel of land described as 2 acres in the Northwest corner of the SE1/4 of NE1/4 of Section 24, Township 5 North, Range 19 East, which lies South of the paved Packing House Road, as the same is presently located.

The lands described hereinabove contain, in the aggregate, 38 acres, more or less. Wetlands are located on approximately four acres along Eastern side of property and approximately one acre in Northern area of property which contains a three-cell sewage lagoon system. Neither of the wetland areas would be disturbed by this project.

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of this impact and to request comments concerning (1) the impacts of the proposed action on wetlands, (2) alternative sites or actions that would avoid these impacts and (3) methods that could be used to reduce these impacts.

The proposed action is available for review at the following USDA - Rural Development Office: 205 West Adams Street, Dothan, Alabama 36303. Any person interested in commenting on the proposed action may do so by sending such comments within 30 days following the date of this publication to: Rural Development Area Manager, USDA - Rural Development, 205 West Adams Street, Dothan, Alabama 36303.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I would like the community to know that Mr. Danny Weeks, superintendent, has been very supportive of our special needs students at Elba High School. One example is his support of our attending the Special Citizens' Day activities at the National Peanut Festival Fair in Dothan, Alabama on November 10, 2004. Our students enjoyed a fun-filled day by observing the fair employees in action, meeting the festival queens, and boarding the various rides on the fair grounds. A student stated to me, "Mrs. Howard I really enjoyed myself and I learned a lot. I hope we can go again."

Perhaps Christians should send letters to be read during prayer breakfast at the White House, and retired army chaplains should be encouraged to preach in churches across the nation about the dangers that make some of us think of staying for another drink or going for the pill bottle.

Christians should reach for the sky, but not in matters that may cause division within the body of believers, as is known as the body of Christ. Vera Maddox-Crozier Hoopeson, II.

Pistol permit system is changing in Coffee, according to sheriff

For many years the procedure for applying for a pistol license, not the form of the license have changed; however, effective immediately, new and renewed license will be computerized and come in a laminated credit card size and form.

Coffee County Sheriff Ben Moates said the new license does not have the picture of the licensee and, therefore, is not a form of identification.

"The most important change in the application process and receiving a new or renewed license is that the applicant or person renewing their old license is now required to appear in person in order to receive their license," Moates said.

Moates said a pistol license does not permit a gun to be carried openly, and the permit becomes void if arrested on any charge, nor allow a gun to be carried in any place that serves alcohol or while drinking, or using illegal drugs. It also is void in any air terminal or public house or other public building whether city, county, state or federal.

The cost of the new computerized license remains \$20 with renewal required yearly. Should a license expire for a period of six months or more, a new application must be completed. To apply for a pistol license or a concealed weapons permit, an

Editor,

Now that many Christians seem to have a voice in government, I say they should go after those who are responsible for killer drugs.

While we pray for the safety of the unborn, let us also lift up prayers for babies being born every day with illegal drugs flowing through their veins.

Graveside services were held Nov. 29, 2004 at Danley's Crossroads Cemetery with Rev. David Richburg officiating. Burial followed in Danley's Crossroads Cemetery with Seary Funeral Home directing.

Evangelist Vesteline Donaldson Sowell, age 71, died Thursday, Nov. 18, 2004.

Funeral services were held Nov. 26, 2004 at Springfield Missionary Baptist Church of New Brockton, Ala. with Rev. Harvey C. Williams officiating. Burial followed with Coleman Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include three sons: Ronald Donaldson, Robert Donaldson and Anthony Donaldson; three daughters: Sharon Donaldson, Sharlene Donaldson and Cynthia Donaldson, all of Queens, N.Y.; one sister: Mary E. (William) Thomas, Augusta, Ga.; three brothers: Clayborn (Betty) Sowell, New Brockton, Gregory Sowell, Estill, S.C., Gary (Joyce) Sowell, Augusta, Ga.; and three grandchildren.

James "Colie" Boutwell, age 84, of Elba, Ala., died Saturday, Nov. 20, 2004 at his residence in Elba.

Funeral services were held Nov. 22, 2004 from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba with Rev. Ray Layton officiating. Burial followed in the Center Ridge Cemetery, Troy, Ala. with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Mr. James "Colie" Boutwell, age 84, of Elba, Ala., died Saturday, Nov. 20, 2004 at his residence in Elba.

Funeral services were held Nov. 22, 2004 from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba with Rev. Ray Layton officiating. Burial followed in the Center Ridge Cemetery, Troy, Ala. with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

NELL K. CLEMMONS

Nell K. Clemmons, age 95, of Elba, Ala. and formerly of New Brockton, Ala., died Sunday, Nov. 28, 2004 at Elba Nursing Home.

Graveside services were held Nov. 29, 2004 at Danley's Crossroads Cemetery with Rev. David Richburg officiating. Burial followed in Danley's Crossroads Cemetery with Seary Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include his wife: Eldora Hudson, Enterprise, Ala.; two daughters: Vernetta Maddox (husband: James), Elba; Sue H. Parker (husband: Bob), Troy, Ala.; one son: John V. Hudson (wife: Judy), Mathews, Ala.; one step son: Jerry Givens (wife: Pat), Enterprise; one sister: Inez Morgan, Brantley, Ala.; 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Nov. 30, 2004 from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba with Rev. Man Gray officiating. Burial followed at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Mr. Hudson was preceded in death by a wife, Lois Hudson.

Survivors include his wife: Eldora Hudson, Enterprise, Ala.; two daughters: Vernetta Maddox (husband: James), Elba; Sue H. Parker (husband: Bob), Troy, Ala.; one son: John V. Hudson (wife: Judy), Mathews, Ala.; one step son: Jerry Givens (wife: Pat), Enterprise; one sister: Inez Morgan, Brantley, Ala.; 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

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Survivors include his wife: Eldora Hudson, Enterprise, Ala.; two daughters: Vernetta Maddox (husband: James), Elba; Sue H. Parker (husband: Bob), Troy, Ala.; one son: John V. Hudson (wife: Judy), Mathews, Ala.; one step son: Jerry Givens (wife: Pat), Enterprise; one sister: Inez Morgan, Brantley, Ala.; 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

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Obituaries

JAMES ARTHUR HUDSON

Mr. James Arthur Hudson, age 87, of Elba, Ala., died Saturday, Nov. 27, 2004 at the Enterprise Medical Center.

Funeral services were held Nov. 30, 2004 from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba with Rev. Man Gray officiating. Burial followed at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

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SPORTS

Views From.... THE PRESSBOX

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Last weekend was the time to start decorating the house for the holidays, but when we headed out to the garage to bring in the boxes filled with ornaments, lights and the other decorations, we found very few of the boxes were being hunted and had to sit down and scratch our heads in an effort to remember just where we put all the boxes when we put them up last winter. We finally found the boxes and got the tree up right on time, but the holiday season didn't get off to a very smooth start.

ELBA TIGERS WIN THANKSGIVING TOURNAMENT

The Elba Tigers competed in the Southeast Sun Thanksgiving Invitational basketball tournament last week at New Brocton and claimed three wins to bring home the tournament championship. The Tigers pulled ahead early and held on late to escape with an opening round win over Kinston, then survived a triple-overtime thriller against Highland Home to get past the semifinals and in the finals surprised pre-tourney favorite Headland to claim the championship trophy. This year's version of the Tigers are blessed with quickness all over the court and for the first time in years the team actually looks to run and has the green light to shoot from behind the arc as whenever the opportunity arises. While the Tigers may not have the height inside to control the boards, their quickness and aggressive style of play did make up for their lack of size and was the key to all three wins. Elba did commit many turnovers in all three games as they tried to settle into the new fast-paced attack, but the biggest weakness was at the free-throw line, where the Tigers hit only 48 of 103 free-throws in the three games combined. Elba hit a miserable 6 of 21 attempts in their win over Kinston, connected on only 24 of 52 opportunities in the triple-overtime win over Highland Home and made only 18 of 30 in the win over Headland. The Tigers will no doubt get to the free-throw line more than ever this season with their style of play. However, unless they can convert from the line they may struggle to win against some teams they should handle easily. Oh well, a 3-0 start and a tournament championship ain't a bad way to open the season.

COUNTY PREP TEAMS GIVE FANS A PREVIEW

Last week's basketball tournament over in New Brocton gave all area fans an early chance to see their teams in action and also gave them a preview of things to come. Here is a quick look back at what they saw.

***** NEW BROCKTON** - The Gamecocks struggled in their season opener under new coach Glen Johnson and fell to cross-county rival Zion Chapel. New Brocton has a good mixture of size and quickness, and also has some good outside shooters. However, the lack of experience hurt the Gamecocks in their opening loss and could be a problem until the players learn the new system and gain some on the court playing time. The Lady Gamecocks won one and lost two in their three games, but showed they had a team that would never stop fighting and would never throw in the towel. New Brocton's girls aren't blessed with many good outside shooters. However, their quickness and desire to win should be enough to help them to a winning season.

***** ZION CHAPEL** - The Rebels won one and lost two in the tournament and made it clear that they are a team to watch this season. Zion Chapel has a team loaded with experience, and while the players have never won big on the court, they have played hard for years and are convinced they are ready to win. If the Rebels can find an inside game they could very well be the surprise team in the county. The Lady Rebels dropped their opener to New Brocton, but showed promise in many areas and should get their share of wins as the season rolls along. Zion Chapel's girls play hard every minute and have more talent than in years past, and that combination should help the Lady Rebels surprise some folks along the way.

***** KINSTON** - The Bulldogs lost in their tourney opener to eventual champion Elba to fall to 1-2 on the season. However, the Bulldogs never quit battling and made the Tigers play until the final horn to claim the win. Kinston may not have the best players around and may not be as talented as in years past, but the Bulldogs play hard for all four quarters and will no doubt jump up and bite some folks along the way. The Lady Bulldogs didn't play in the tourney, but I did see them play in their season opener and they too should get some wins as they settle down. Kinston's girls have experience and as much talent as many teams in the area, and once they get a few wins under their belts should be a team to watch.

BRANTLEY BULLDOGS MOVE ON TO SEMIFINALS

The Brantley Bulldogs gained a measure of revenge last week for last year's one-point loss to American Christian by knocking off the Patriots 17-16, in the third round of the state high school football playoffs. Brantley and American Christian both missed numerous chances to score points throughout the game, but in the end it was the Bulldogs that scored last and then added the extra-point to escape with the win. Coach David Lowery and his troops are now 25-1 in their last 26 games, and a win this week will put the Bulldogs back in the "Super Six" in Birmingham. Another long road trip will no doubt take its toll on the "Dogs and the competition will be stiff. However, this team has found a way to win all season long and won't back away from a challenge now.

HIGH SCHOOL PLAYOFFS ENTER SEMIFINAL ROUND

The high school football season enters the semifinal round this week and that means there are only four teams left in all six classes. Here is a look back at how that number advanced into week four.

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action...

***** CLASS 6A** - Carver of Montgomery moved into the semifinals for the first time ever with a 29-14 win over Vigor, and Coach Larry Ware has to be the hottest coaching prospect in the state after turning the Wolverines into a state power in only three years. The turnaround at Carver is nothing short of remarkable.

***** CLASS 5A** - Stanhope Elmore kept its state title hopes alive with a 16-15 win over Williamson, of Mobile, and it looks like the Mustangs may be nearing the end of this year's ride. The Mustangs have been one of the top teams in the 5A circles throughout the year and have had a season to brag about. However, last week's close call may mean Stanhope will no longer be a dominating force.

***** CLASS 4A** - Demopolis made the trip to Montgomery to battle defending state champ Trinity and left town with a shocking 46-7 win. The Tigers from West Alabama have taken no prisoners all season long in rolling to 13 straight wins, and last week's win over top-ranked Trinity made it clear the Tigers are for real. This week the Tigers will go up against another state power when they head down to Mobile to meet UMS-Wright, which pounded previously undefeated Elmore County 45-13. What a game!

***** CLASS 3A** - TR Miller continued its trek toward another state title by knocking off previously unbeaten Midfield 28-14, while defending state champ Pike County fell short and lost to last year's state runner-up Oneonta 18-13. The Bulldogs of Coach Wayne Grant were expected to take their lumps this season after losing almost its entire team to graduation, but Coach Grant taught his team how to win and set the stage for more winning to come.

***** CLASS 2A** - The Cottonwood Bears surprised Red Level 27-18 and in doing so advanced to this week's semifinal round. The Bears were thought to be a contender early in the season, but lost four games along the way and were forgotten by many area fans. Now that the Bears are among the final four in 2A circles, I guess many of the early optimism was a better gauge of their skills than their upset losses.

***** CLASS 1A** - Sweet Water continued to roll up the points in a 35-7 win over previously undefeated Loachapoka and now gets to tangle with another 1A power when Brantley invades Marengo County. The top two teams in the 1A ranks both advanced as Wadley sneaked past South Lamar 20-19 and Hubbard Courtland routed Cedar Bluff 41-13. In Class 1A, the names seem to stay the same.

FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH...

***** Auburn fans** will have their fingers crossed this weekend hoping that either Southern Cal or Oklahoma lose their season finales. The Tigers from up on the plains have one of the best teams in the nation and still have a chance to make it to the BCS finals, but their wins over such cupcakes as Citadel, Louisiana Monroe and La. Tech did them no good to the voters across the nation, and unless an upset occurs this weekend they could be the odd man out in the national championship race.

***** Elba grads** were on stage last week at the basketball tournament over at New Brocton as Paul Marsh led the Kinston Bulldogs and Glen Johnson guided the New Brocton Gamecocks. Coach

Elba's Lyndsay Lawford named to "Super 12" volleyball squad

The *Dothan Eagle* announced its annual "Super 12" high school volleyball team last weekend and included on the honored list was Elba Lady Tiger Lyndsay Lawford. Lawford, a senior, recorded 129 kills, 55 aces and 39 assists to help guide Elba to a 16-12 record, the area championship and a berth in the region tournament.

Kinston's Mandi Loupe was named the "Player of the Year" in the small school division, while Lady Bulldog coach Janie Wiggins was named "Coach of the Year" and teammate Kaleigh Sanders was also named to the honored list. Loupe, a senior, recorded 236 kills and 60 aces to help lead the Lady Bulldogs to the state tournament, while Sanders recorded 154 kills, 75 digs and 62 aces. Wiggins, in her fifth year at the helm at Kinston, guided her team to a 31-15 record, despite having only two seniors on the squad. The complete "Super 12" list in the small school division included: Mandi Loupe.

A.H.S.A.A. FOOTBALL PLAYOFF REPORT

QUARTERFINAL RESULTS

CLASS 6A

Carver 29 Vigor 14

Prattville 28 Daphne 0

MI. Brook 31 Tuscaloosa Co. 21

Hoover 24 Spain Park 7

CLASS 5A

Homewood 28 PI. Grove 7

St. Elmore 16 Williamson 15

Athens 23 Fairfield 19

Russellville 28 Buckhorn 21

CLASS 4A

UMS-Wright 45 Elmore Co. 13

Demopolis 46 Trinity 7

Alexandria 43 Hamilton 14

Deshler 31 Moody 0

CLASS 3A

TR. Miller 28 Midfield 14

Oneonta 18 Pike Co. 13

Winfield 28 Rogers 0

Hokes Bluff 17 Litchfield 7

CLASS 2A

Cottonwood 27 Red Level 18

Leroy 17 Sou. Choctaw 0

Clay Co. 27 Lineville 0

Woodland 36 Red Bay 14

CLASS 1A

Sweet Water 35 Loachapoka 7

Brantley 17 Am. Christian 16

Wadley 20 South Lamar 18

Courtland 41 Cedar Bluff 12

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH

Marsh took over down at Kinston when long time coach Gary Glass got out to take an administrative post at New Brocton and has his Bulldogs 1-2 in early season play, while Coach Johnson took over when the Gamecock post came open and is convinced he can lead the Gamecocks back to the top. Both coaches were former players at Elba High and will make all Elba fans check the scores in the paper to see how they are doing as the season rolls along.

Former Red Level standout Frank Tolbert had a big night recently with 21 points and 8 rebounds in an Auburn win and as the Tigers have started off 4-0 it seems they have a different freshman step up every night to lead the team to a win. Many college fans thought Auburn would be the doormat of the SEC this season, but the Tigers have already found out how to win and may be the surprise team in the conference.

*** In closing, school officials at both South Carolina and Clemson are to be commended for their decisions not to allow their football teams to participate in bowl games after their season-ending brawl. The decisions should make it clear that such actions will not be tolerated, and hopefully more actions will take place to punish some of the players that became so violent during the fight. Such actions by school officials may help put the "sports" back in "sportsmanship."

POLISH PROGNOSTICATOR PLAINS ALONG...

The Polish Prognosticator stopped by over the weekend and laughed that one prediction that was almost always a sure bet was that bad weather would roll into Elba the weekend of the annual Christmas Festival. The local guesser said he didn't get wet, which means he came out a lot better than hundreds that got soaked by the afternoon storm. Anyway, the guesser did hit on 10 of his 12 plays, all picks last week to up his season totals to 258-54, and left this week's picks...

BRANTLEY VS. SWEET WATER

The Bulldogs from up across the river will need some sweet water Friday night after their long hike over to West Alabama and should find plenty as they get close to the dog pound that has four state championship signs hanging up along its walls. If the Dogs are still happy over last week's win the season could end on a sour note, but the guess here is that it will be another sweet win for the Crenshaw County canines.

BRANTLEY 27 SWEET WATER 26

OTHER PICKS:

Prattville 17 Carver 8

Hoover 24 MI. Brook 7

Homewood 21 Stanhope Elmore 10

Russellville 17 Athens 0

Demopolis 22 UMS-Wright 21

Deshler 21 Alexandria 14

TR. Miller 24 Oneonta 14

Winfield 15 Hokes Bluff 13

Leroy 10 Cottonwood 8

Clay County 21 Woodland 0

Hubbard Courtland 29 Wadley 24



ELBA'S LAWFORD NAMED SUPER 12 - Elba Lady Tiger volleyball player Lyndsay Lawford was selected last weekend to the 2004 "Super 12" high school volleyball team by The Dothan Eagle. Lawford, a senior, helped lead the Lady Tigers to the area championship and a berth in the region tournament.

(Photo by John Wallace, Andalusia Star/News)



Cheyenne Nelson bagged this 110 lb. spike Sunday, Nov. 28.

SPORTS

Open season with three wins

Elba Tigers win Thanksgiving tournament title

The Elba Tigers competed in the *Southeast Sun* Thanksgiving Invitational basketball tournament last week at New Brocton High School and claimed three wins in three outings to bring home the championship trophy.

"We turned the ball over too many times and missed more free-throws than we made," said Elba's Coach Karl Bledsoe, "but we played hard for every quarter on every game and our intensity was what led us to the wins. We had to cut short some work on a lot of little things to get ready for the tournament and it showed in the turnovers and mistakes we made on both ends of the court. We will get the chance to work on those mistakes as the season progresses and if we continue to play hard and get after our opponents for all four quarters we should be a pretty good team before long. It will take a while to become solid in all aspects and we will no doubt struggle at times, but we have a pretty good group and with more practice we should develop into a team that will be fun to watch."

Following are highlights of last week's three tournament wins:

ELBA 63 KINSTON 58

The Elba Tigers survived a late Kinston rally to get past the Bulldogs 63-58, on Monday afternoon in the opening round of the eight-team tournament.

The Tigers, left behind 5-0 early in the opening stanza, but sparked by the scoring of Duke Carr and Andrew Stoudemire rallied and outscored the Bulldogs 14-2 for the remainder of the quarter to open up a 14-7 advantage.

Elba extended its lead to 20-7 with 5:31 remaining in the second quarter and appeared ready to blow the game open, but this time it was Kinston that staged a rally as Joseph McCrummen and Billy Johnson sparked the Bulldogs as Kinston closed the quarter with a 12-3 run to cut the Tigers' lead to 23-19 at intermission.

Elba's Kikko Logan, hampered by foul problems in the first-half, returned to the court in the third quarter and poured in 10 points and pulled down 7 rebounds as the Tigers regained command and opened up a 40-28 lead with 2:57 left in the quarter.

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Fall to Samson in opening round

Elba Lady Tigers make early exit in Thanksgiving tournament

The Elba Lady Tigers competed in the Southeast Sun Thanksgiving Invitational basketball tournament last week at New Brocton High School and made an early exit in the eight-team event as they were eliminated by the Samson Lady Bulldogs 51-36, in opening round action on Monday afternoon.

The two teams swapped baskets early on and Elba pulled even at 7-7 with 4:22 left in the opening stanza on a three-point by Krystan Parker, but Samson answered with a 7-0 run to close the quarter and opened up a 14-7 advantage.

The Lady Tigers had more turnovers than points in the second quarter against the sticky Samson press and failed to score in the final four minutes of the stanza as Samson pulled out to a commanding 31-11 halftime bulge.

Samson continued to pour it on early in the third quarter and opened up a 39-11 lead, but the Lady Tigers finally began to settle down and led by the play of LaFondra Thigpen and Ashley Waddell cut the deficit to 41-18 by the end of the quarter.

LaFondra Thigpen scored 10 points in the opening three minutes of the fourth quarter as Elba cut the Samson lead to 43-28 with 5:08 left on the clock, but Samson regained command and closed the game with a 6-1 run to post the 51-36 win.

LaFondra Thigpen scored 18 points to lead Elba, while Kaitlyn Revels led Samson with 14 points and Katie King and Kala Bess both added 11 points.

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a 19-8 lead with 6:36 remaining in the half.

Elba's lead grew to 22-10 with 5:23 remaining on a three-point by Mason Gulley and it appeared the Tigers were in command. However, the Flying Squidron staged the final rally of the stanza and outscored Elba 8-1 over the final five minutes to cut the lead to 23-18 by the end of the half.

Highland Home continued its rally in the third quarter and outscored the Tigers 15-4 over the opening four minutes of the quarter to move ahead 33-27 with 4:26 left on the clock. A short jumper by Andrew Stoudemire with 4:09 left in the stanza ended the Squadron run and sparked an Elba rally that saw the Tigers close the quarter with five straight points as Elba closed to within 33-32 with one quarter left.

A three-point by Mason Gulley sparked a 7-0 Elba run that gave the Tigers a 38-33 lead early in the fourth quarter. However, Highland Home refused to go away and scored six straight points midway through the quarter to regain the lead at 41-39 with 3:24 left on the clock.

Elba moved back on top 45-43 with 2:12 left and had a chance to open up a four-point lead with 59 remaining, but missed two free-throws, and then saw Highland Home score with 46 left to pull even at 45-45 to send the game into overtime.

Highland Home started fast in the extra period and opened up a 50-45 lead with 2:31 left in the overtime, but this time the Tigers rallied and behind the three-point shooting of Brandon Kelley and Mason Gulley caught the Squadron at 54-54 to send the game into a second overtime period.

The Tigers took charge in the second extra period and moved ahead 58-54 with 1:59 remaining on a free-throw by Sharon Abbott, then took a 61-58 lead with only .03 left on the clock on a free-throw by Reynar Rogers. Highland Home had only enough time left to throw up a desperation shot from back court, but the shot by Tony Merriweather hit its target and the game went into a third extra period with the score tied at 61-61.

The Tigers outscored Highland Home 7-2 to open the

in the opening quarter. A three-point by the Tigers' Brandon Kelley gave Elba a 5-4 lead with 3:08 left on the clock, and the Tigers scored the final three points of the stanza to carry an 8-4 lead into the second quarter.

The Tigers came out on fire early in the second quarter and behind the three-point shooting of Brandon Kelley and the slashing drives of Mason Gulley pulled ahead 15-6 with 6:18 remaining in the half. Elba managed only two points over the final six minutes of the stanza; however, and at intermission the Tigers went in with a slim 17-14 advantage.

A three-point by Brandon Kelley helped Elba stretch its lead to 21-14 with 6:53 remaining in the third quarter, but the Rams answered with a rally of their own and outscored the Tigers 9-1 over the next three minutes to grab the lead at 23-22. The Tigers did manage to connect on 3 of 4 free-throws late in the quarter, but it was the only points the Tigers would put on the scoreboard and by the end of the half Headland was on top with a 30-25 lead.

Elba picked up its intensity on both ends of the court to open the fourth quarter and combined a sticky man-to-man defense with the hot shooting of Shawn Abbott and LaRay Williams to open the stanza with a 9-0 run that put the Tigers back on top 34-30 with 6:34 left in the game.

Headland regained the lead at 35-34 with 5:54 remaining and later pulled even at 40-40 with 1:55 left on a long three-point. However, a free throw by Mason Gulley and a basket by LaRay Williams put the Tigers back on top 43-40, and the Tigers never relinquished their lead as Elba held on and posted the exciting 48-46 win.

Mason Gulley, LaRay Williams and Brandon Kelley all scored 12 points for Elba, while Chris Jackson led Headland with 14 points.

Elba (48): Gulley 12, Williams 12, Kelley 12, Abbott 6, Logan 4, Rogers 2.

Headland (46): Thomas 7, Smith 3, Jackson 14, Green 2, Roy 6, LaRue 1, Newsome 1.



TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS... The Elba Tigers brought home the championship trophy last week in the *Southeast Sun* Thanksgiving Invitational basketball tournament. The Tigers defeated Kinston, Highland Home and Headland to win the title. Elba's Mason Gulley was named the tourney MVP, while Kikko Logan and LaRay Williams received All-Tournament team honors.

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SPORTS

Defeat New Brockton in opener

Zion Chapel Rebels fall in consolation game

The Zion Chapel Rebels competed last week in the Southeast Sun Thanksgiving Invitational basketball tournament last week at New Brockton High School and claimed one win in three games to place fourth in the eight-team event.

Following are highlights of the Rebels' tournament action:

Lady Gamecocks fall in consolation game at Thanksgiving tournament

The New Brockton Lady Gamecocks helped host the Southeast Sun Thanksgiving Invitational basketball tournament last week at New Brockton High School and claimed one win in three outings to claim fourth place in the eight-team event.

Following are highlights of last week's tournament action:

NEW BROCKTON 40

ZION CHAPEL 29

The New Brockton Lady Gamecocks opened the tournament on Tuesday night and posted an exciting 40-29 win over the Zion Chapel Lady Rebels.

The two cross-county rivals swapped baskets for much of the opening stanza as the Lady Gamecocks scored late to take a 17-13 lead. New Brockton opened the second quarter with a 7-3 run to open up a 24-16 lead, and later took advantage of scoring drought by the Lady Rebels to move ahead 29-16. Zion Chapel's Heather Reeves drained a long three-pointer at the buzzer to cut the New Brockton lead to 29-19 at the half, but the Lady Gamecocks regained command early in the third quarter and used baskets by Maressa Loman and Amber Adams to move ahead 33-19. The Lady Rebels' Keri Hobbs nailed a three-pointer to help Zion Chapel pull within 35-24 with 5:38 remaining in the game and later connected again from behind the arc to cut the New Brockton lead to 37-29. However, the Lady Rebels would get no closer as New Brockton held on and posted the 40-29 win.

Maressa Loman scored 14 points to lead New Brockton, while Brittany Brantley added 8 and Valerie Hutcherson and Amber Adams both scored 7 points. Keri Hobbs scored 10 points to lead Zion Chapel and Inessa Wambles added 6.

N.B. (40): Eaton 2, Hutcherson 7, Loman 14, Brantley 8, Adams 7, Grimes 2.

Z.C. (29): Wambles 6, Taylor 3, Hobbs 10, Lewis 2, McLendon 2, Parrish 3, Reeves 3.

ASHFORD 49

NEW BROCKTON 34

The New Brockton Lady Gamecocks fell behind early and saw a late rally fall short as they lost to the Ashford Lady Jackets 49-34, Friday night in semifinal action.

The Lady Gamecocks had problems finding their way to the basket early in the game, but the same could not be said for Ashford as the Lady Jackets converted on numerous fast-break opportunities and by the end of the first half owned a big 32-9 advantage. New Brockton began to settle down in the third quarter and outscored Ashford in both the third and fourth quarters, but it was too little, too late, as the Lady Jackets easily held on to claim the 49-34 win.

Sheri Eaton scored 13 points to lead New Brockton, while Valerie Hutcherson added 7, Bethany Hornsby scored 18 points to lead Ashford.

Ashford (49): Brooks 6, Hornsby 18, Wilson 2, Marshall 2, Williams 11, Ward 8, Griggs 2.

N.B. (34): Eaton 13, Hutcherson 7, Hall 11, Brantley 6, Loman 6.

OPP 55

N.B. 40

The New Brockton Lady Gamecocks saw a furious fourth quarter rally fall short as they lost to the Opp Lady Bobcats 55-40, Saturday afternoon in the consolation game.

The two teams battled on even terms for much of the opening stanza before Opp pulled ahead late to grab a 12-9 lead, while in the second quarter the Lady Bobcats began to take charge and at half-time Opp owned a 28-18 advantage. The Lady Bobcats came out on fire in the third quarter and outscored the Lady Gamecocks 20-4 to open up a big 48-22 lead, and while the Lady Gamecocks did rally late in did little but change the score as Opp held on and claimed the 55-40 win.

Maressa Loman scored 14 points and Yameka Hall added 11 to lead New Brockton, while Kiara Henderson scored 17 points and Yasahia Musgrove added 16.

Opp (55): Mack 8, Henderson 17, Stephens 6, Foster 2, Rhymes 3, Musgrove 16, Ellison 1.

N.B. (40): Eaton 2, Hutcherson 5, Hall 11, Brantley 8, Logan 14.

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game, but the Gamecocks suffered through a four-minute scoring drought late in the opening stanza and by the end of the quarter the Rebels owned a 14-8 lead.

New Brockton cut the Rebels' lead to 20-16 early in the second quarter. However, Luke Taylor fueled a Rebel rally with a long three-pointer as Zion Chapel regained command by opening up a 26-16 advantage midway through the stanza.

The Gamecocks rallied late in the half to pull within 28-21, and behind the shooting of Brett Parrish opened the third quarter with a 5-0 run to cut the Zion Chapel lead to 28-26. The Rebels went on a 8-3 run to move ahead 36-29 late in the stanza, and then opened the fourth quarter with a 9-0 run to grab a 47-32 lead with 6:51 left on the clock. Zion Chapel remained in command for much of the quarter and led 53-42 with 2:23 remaining, and then turned matters over to Austin Smith as the senior guard connected on 10 straight free-throws in the final two minutes to lead the Rebels to the 65-53 win.

Luke Taylor scored 22 points to lead Zion Chapel, while Josh Smith added 20 and Austin Smith scored 15 points. Brett Parrish scored 16 points to lead New Brockton and Roy Caldwell added 11.

Z.C. (65): Taylor 22, A. Smith 15, J. Smith 20, Childs 4, McWaters 2, Wise 2.

N.B. (53): Parrish 16, Foster 1, Lee 6, Andrews 4, Finley 9, Simmons 1, Johnson 3, Perry 2, Caldwell 11.

HEADLAND 57

ZION CHAPEL 28

The Zion Chapel Rebels scored the first two points of the game to grab an early lead, but had problems finding their way to the basket for the remainder of the game as they fell to the Headland Rams 57-28, Friday night in semifinal action.

Josh Smith scored 13 points inside early in the opening stanza to give the Rebels a quick 2-0 lead, but the Rebels added only one basket the remainder of the quarter and by the end of the first quarter found themselves on the short end of a 16-4 score.

Abe Childs nailed a three-pointer early in the second quarter to help the Rebels cut the lead to 18-7, and the Rebels continued to have success from the free-throw line.

Cool weather is time to plant and prune trees and shrubs

By Stan Windham
County Extension Agent

The winter months are a good time of year to transplant trees and shrubs in Alabama. Transplanting trees can usually be done most any time of the year, but the cool temperatures reduces the rate of water loss in the plant and thus reduces stress on it. The cooler part of the year is also a good time to prune ornamental plants.

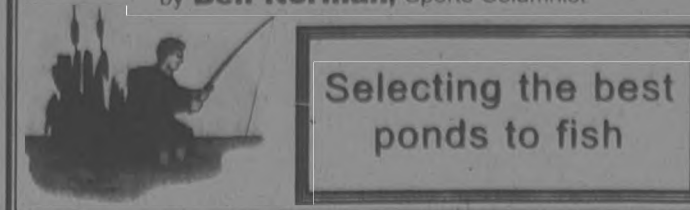
When planting a new shrub or tree purchased from a nursery or some other source there are a few things that you need to keep in mind. First, keep the plant moist until you are able to plant it. Many times a shrub or tree is lost before it is ever put into the new hole. The reason for this is the plant is not kept watered and therefore dries out and is under extensive stress before it is ever planted.

Another factor is to make the hole for the new shrub or tree at least one and one-half times bigger than the root mass. Add some water to the hole and pack the soil tightly and firmly around the root mass.

This same basic philosophy applies to transplanting trees and shrubs. The only other consideration is to make sure that you have gotten as much of the root as you can possibly get when digging it up. A good rule of thumb is to move out from the drip line of the tree to start digging the plant up. Transplanting is not an easy process so don't shortcut. The hole that will be receiving the transplanted shrub should be slightly larger than the root mass and a little deeper. Again, add a

Let's Go... Outdoors with Ben

by Ben Norman, Sports Columnist



Selecting the best
ponds to fish

Alabama has no shortage of farm ponds. Within a few miles of virtually every one of us is a pond teeming with bass, bluegill, crappie and catfish. A large number of these ponds were constructed with the primary purpose of creating a watering source for livestock.

Most of us select the ponds we fish based on the recommendation of our friends or our own past personal experience with a particular pond. But what if you are visiting in an area where you have no fishing contacts and have to "wing it" on your own.

There are several factors to consider when evaluating a pond for its "fishability" so to speak. The first thing to try to decide on is if the pond was built for agricultural purposes only. If the pond was built for livestock watering and/or irrigation, it may have been stocked but never limed or fertilized.

Fishing in a pond built strictly for agricultural purposes will, in most cases, not be as productive as one that was constructed specifically for recreation. Ponds built for recreation are much more likely to be under a management plan where they are limed, fertilized, and properly stocked. However, some pond owners who built their pond for agricultural purposes also do an excellent job of managing it for recreation as well.

Analyzing the drainage area from where a pond receives its water can provide clues to how good the fishing will be. If the drainage area above a pond is used for cultivation, the pond may have received a lot of silt over the years. Water level is another indicator of the health of a pond. If it appears shallow and the water table is obviously low, it has an inadequate water source. On the other hand if the drainage is too large, excessive flow can bring in too much silt also. As a rule, a pond with a drainage area in grass or timber is a healthier pond than one surrounded by cultivated land.

If the pond is the only water source for a large herd of cows, and the pond is relatively small, it usually won't be as good as if cows were not using it. Ponds that are used as a water source for irrigation will not be affected if the water draw is properly regulated, but drawing off a lot of water fast can give fish the lockjaw.

Determining fishing pressure on a pond can help one decide if they want to fish a particular pond. Ponds should be harvested according to the recommendations of a professional biologist. A rough rule of thumb is that a pond can withstand a harvest of 50 pounds of fish per acre per year, with most of this number being panfish.

The Rebels couldn't keep pace the speedy Highland Home attack in the opening stanza and trailed 16-10 after one quarter, but began to settle down in the second quarter and outscored the Smudrons 4-7 in the stanza to carry a 24-23 lead in at the half.

Highland Home regained the lead at 33-32 after three quarters and then slowly pulled away in the final stanza to down the Rebels 46-40.

Josh Smith scored 13 points and Luke Taylor added 12 to lead Zion Chapel, while Derrick Dulaney led Highland Home with 10 points.

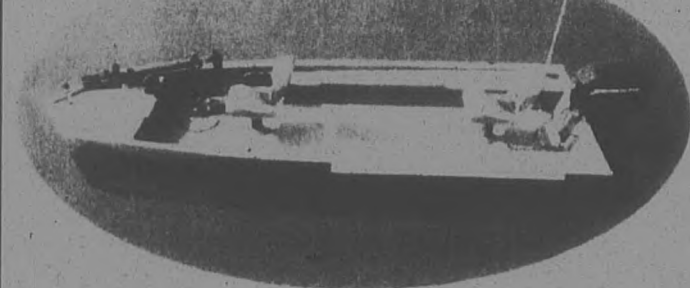
H. Home (46): Dulaney 10, Nichols 7, Bryant 8, Beasley 2, Merriweather 4, Harris 5, Sankey 5, O. Bryant 5.

Z.C. (40): Taylor 12, A. Smith 7, J. Smith 13, Childs 9.

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SPORTS

Head into semifinals with 13-0 record

Payback is sweet as Brantley Bulldogs oust Patriots 17-16

By Greg Brunson
Photos by Mike Capps

13-0!!!

The Brantley Bulldogs advanced in the Class 1A state playoffs Friday night and gained a measure of revenge as they put to rest last season's 28-27 quarterfinal loss to the American Christian Patriots by claiming an exciting 17-16 win over the Patriots, in Tuscaloosa.

A huge crowd of Bulldog fans made the long trip for the playoff contest and was treated to big plays on offense when it counted the most and a defensive effort that was needed until the final horn sounded.

Devaris Skanes rushed for 22 and 13 yards on the first two

plays of the game to help Brantley's Antwan Foster picking off a Patriot pass and American Christian's Bud Smalley intercepting a Bulldog aerial at the Patriot 17-yardline.

American Christian's offense came to life after the turnover and marched 83 yards in seven plays on the strength of four Chris Smalley completions.

Jordan Hastings scored the touchdown on a 2-yard plunge on the first play of the second quarter and Jeff Ogren added the extra-point as American Christian moved on top 7-3.

Brantley's Devaris Skanes returned the ensuing kickoff 45 yards to set the Bulldogs up at their own 47-yardline, and nine running plays later the 'Dogs were faced with a fourth down and eight at the American Christian 9-yardline. Brantley returned to the six on the crucial fourth down play, but again failed to find the endzone as the Patriots turned back the threat with a pass interception at the one-yardline.

The Bulldog defense refused to let the Patriots out of the hole and forced a punt, and Brantley's Antwan Foster intercepted the punt at the Patriot 46-yardline, got a crushing block from Lance Myers at the 45 and raced down the sideline for a touchdown. Marcus Owens kicked the extra-point and with 4:07 remaining in the second quarter the Bulldogs were back on top 10-7.

Brantley lost a fumble at the American Christian 35-yardline on its first possession of the second half and the Patriots wasted little time regaining the lead as they turned the turnover into points by driving 65 yards in 10 plays. Jordan Hastings scored his second touchdown of the game on a 1-yard run with 6:38 remaining in the third quarter, and although the extra-point attempt failed, the Patriots were back on top 13-10.

American Christian added to its lead with 2:08 remaining in the quarter on a 34-yard field-goal by Jeff Ogren that put the Patriots ahead 16-10, but the Patriots lead didn't last for long as the Bulldogs bounced right back on their next possession.

Brantley used a big play to regain the lead for the final time as Devaris Skanes took a pitch out around the right end and kicked it into high gear as he outraced the American Christian defense 60 yards for a touchdown on the final play of the third quarter. Marcus Owens booted the extra-point and with one quarter of action left Brantley was on top, 17-16.

American Christian refused to fold on its home field and headed right back down the field on its ensuing possession. The Patriots moved to a first down at the Brantley 20-yardline, but Josh Burnett sacked Smalley for a 14-yard loss on first down to push the Patriots back, and three plays later the Bulldogs regained possession after a defensive stop at the 30-yardline.

American Christian threatened again on its next possession and reached the Brantley 26-yardline, only to be slowed by a holding penalty that helped the Bulldogs turn back the threat.

The Patriots Bud Smalley claimed his second interception

of the game to help Brantley's Antwan Foster picking off a Patriot pass and American Christian's Bud Smalley intercepting a Bulldog aerial at the Patriot 17-yardline.

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SCHOOLS



Tiger Tales

Editors:
Casey Medlock &
Kayla Kelley

EHS Student Spotlight

by Casey Medlock

This week's student spotlight is none other than Donnell Horstead, son of Michelle Pope and Don Horstead.

This 13-year-old seventh grader is a proud member of the EHS Marching Tiger Band and concert band, and he also plays for the JV basketball team.

Donnell likes to spend his spare time playing video games and basketball. In the future, Donnell would like to either be a doctor or join the army.

With these high goals, this outgoing, funny guy is perfect for this week's student spotlight. Congratulations, Donnell!



Donnell Horstead

Vehicle Day set for Dec. 3 at EES

by Tori Brooks

On Friday, Dec. 3, Lynn Baker, the counselor at Elba Elementary will host Vehicle Day. It is a culminating activity to her Career Unit.

Mrs. Baker has invited workers who have special vehicles that they use in their jobs to display the vehicles for the elementary kids to see. The vehicles will arrive at 12:00 on Friday. Each class will be assigned a time to go to the front parking lot to see the vehicles on display. Mrs. Baker has asked many workers to attend including farmers, police officers, school bus drivers, etc. The children will be able to view and ask questions about the owner's vehicles.

Vehicle Day is going to be a great experience for the children, and will help them decide what they would like to be when they grow up and also to see what their role models drive.



This week's Co-Op Spotlight is focused on Ashton Grimes. Ashton is 17-years-old and a senior at Elba High School. Her parents are Bryan and Anita Grimes.

The place of employment that Ashton is currently working at is the Elba Chamber of Commerce. Ashton has been working at the Elba Chamber of Commerce for six months. Her main job at the Chamber of Commerce is being the clerical assistant.

Other activities Ashton participates in besides working are the Elba High School Marching Tiger Band color guard, FFA Vice president, and VICA reporter.

Ashton says her plans for the future are to attend Troy State University and receive a nursing degree.

Congrats, Ashton, for being this week's Co-Op Spotlight!

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- Second - Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Third - Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Fourth - Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

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ELBA ROTARY CLUB

Three students recognized at Farm City Banquet

by Casey Medlock

Elba showed off some of their brightest students this past week at the Farm City Banquet. Three senior girls, Mallory Allen, Jessica Merklin and Ashley Gibson, each received the "Farm City Outstanding Youth Award." These three girls were picked out of five nominees from the senior class of 2004-2005.

All five nominees had to give a resume of their activities during the course of their high school years, and from that they were chosen.

Congratulations Mallory, Jessica and Ashley! EHS is proud of your accomplishment!



Ashley Gibson



Jessica Merklin



Mallory Allen

When It Becomes Out of Control

Submitted by Ashley Gibson

This poem was written by a student at Elba High School. In this poem, you will witness a sister's pain and torture as she watches crystal meth take over her brother's life. Although she is crying inside, she realizes she is unable to do anything about it. Understand that this poem is a plea for anyone who is on drugs to get help. Perhaps reading it from this young girl's perspective will make you understand what torment a family can go through.

"A Sister's Nightmare"
Author: Anonymous

I tried to hide my pain from everyone.

It was harder than I ever imagined.

To care about someone so much.

And just watch as he slowly drifts away.

Seeing how bad it hurts my family.

And watching his stupid mistakes.

Watching my family slowly fall apart.

And always hoping for the best.

I knew him as a different person.

Not the one he was turning into.

I knew him as a brother.

Someone to make me laugh.

Now he has become a stranger.

And all I worry about is him turning on us.

I worried what his next mistake would be.

Or even if there would be a next mistake.

I never knew if he would make it home.

All I could do was sit and wait.

I had so many questions to ask.

And so many answers I needed.

I wanted to know why.

And could never seem to find out.

So much anger was inside me.

I didn't see how I could hold it all in.

It was hard seeing my mom and dad cry.

Slowly realizing they were hurting too.

Even more.

Seeing how hard they tried.

And never giving up.

I tried to be strong for them.

But things were getting worse.

No longer could I control my anger.

I wanted to scream.

I wanted to scream at him.

Hoping it would help.

I just wanted to take the pain away.

Just to make everything right.

I wanted to hurt him so bad.

And let him see how it feels.

I never could allow myself to.

Cause all I worried about was making it worse.

We didn't need anything else.

All I wanted to do was help.

I finally realized.

There was nothing I could do.

Nor my mom or dad.

All I could do was wait.

Watch them hurt and strive.

All I could do was pray for the best.

I had to let him make his own mistakes.

I couldn't stop him.

He was out of control.

I just hoped he would learn from them.

I saw my dad do something.

I never thought he would do.

I saw him give up on one of his own.

He tried everything he could.

But nothing seemed to work.

It tore him apart.

Because he realized it was out of his hands.

There was nothing else he could do.

No one could help him.

Only himself.

No one could make him stop.

Only himself.

He didn't realize the pain.

Because other things were taking over.

He never knew how bad it hurt.

I just wish he could see.

And just tell me why.

Knowing that I couldn't do anything.

That was the hardest thing.

I ever had to realize.

All I could do was sit and wait.

Did You Know?...

by Rebecca English

- Iron to make a 3-inch nail
 - Sulphur to kill all fleas on an average dog
 - Carbon to make 900 pencils
 - Potassium to fire a toy cannon
 - Fat to make 7 bars of soap
 - Phosphorus to make 2,200 match heads
 - Water to fill a ten gallon tank
- You use an average of 43 muscles for a frown.
You use an average of 17 muscles for a smile.
Every two thousand frowns create one wrinkle.
The average human body contains enough:

FAX

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THE ELBA CLIPPER

City of Elba opens holiday season with Christmas Festival and Parade



Carols for Christmas

CHAPTER THREE

by Linda M. Hodge

Monday morning Alli woke up with a big smile on her face. It got a little bigger when she looked at the calendar. Only one week and four days until Christmas!

"Alli, I have been thinking about our conversation the other night," her mom said as she ate breakfast. "It concerns me that you have such harsh feelings for Mrs. James. I'm afraid you have the wrong idea about the holiday season."

What was her mom talking about. No one loves the holidays more than Alli. It's such a magical season with all the decorations, sparkling lights and gifts, gifts, gifts!

"I've decided you need some inspiration to help you better understand the spirit of the holidays," she continued. "Yesterday, I spoke with Mrs. James, and she has agreed to let you help her around the house this week."

"What?" Alli exclaimed. "You want me to help Old Lady Scrooge so I can get a better understanding of the holidays. No offense, Mom, but I think you've lost your mind."

"I believe we've already discussed your calling Mrs. James that name," her mother scolded. Without hesitation, she continued to explain her decision. Elizabeth told her daughter that Mrs. James had agreed to let Alli come over for at least a few hours everyday leading up to Christmas. During that time, Alli would help Mrs. James with chores or she would simply keep her company.

Elizabeth said she hoped the time together would be beneficial to both Alli and Mrs. James, and she reminded Alli that she would be watching... just like Santa.

"Now, hurry along," she said. "Mrs. James is expecting you, and remember, you must stay at least three hours every day."

I'm going to be the laughing stock of the

whole neighborhood. Alli thought as she walked down the sidewalk. Why would Mom do this?

"Hey, Alli," Sam called out from across the street. "Want to build a snowman today?"

"Can't."

"Why not. The snow's just right!"

"I have something else to do," Alli said trying to get away from her friend without revealing too much information.

"What could be more important than building our first snowman of the season?"

Sam was persistent.

"I have to go spend time with Mrs. James."

There was a long silence. Alli realized her friend was in disbelief, so, she began to explain the situation. She insisted her mother was crazy to make her do this, but if she didn't, Christmas would be ruined.

"Good luck," said Sam. "I'm glad it's not me."

Alli watched as Sam headed towards Jessica's house. She knew Sam couldn't wait to tell her what Alli was going to be doing this week. It was going to be unbearable. How would she ever look her friends in the face again. Before long, everyone would be making fun of her, too. Old Lady Scrooge's sidekick.

Alli marched up the steps. She had arrived at the James home. She raised her hand to knock on the door, but suddenly her arm froze.

"Is it really worth the trouble," Alli asked herself.

Author Linda M. Hodge is a native of Elba, Alabama. Carols for Christmas is produced in partnership with this newspaper. Copyright 2004.

Next Week
CHAPTER FOUR: Looks Are Deceiving



MERRY CHRISTMAS



HEN GROWER OF THE YEAR...Mike and Kristy Smith, owners of Smith Poultry Farm, received this award during the 2004 Coffee County Farm City banquet. The award was sponsored by Wayne Farms LLC. The farm is located near the Ino Community, and it produces approximately 5 million hatching eggs yearly.



PULLET GROWER OF THE YEAR...Wiley and Ann Vann, owners of Shore Creek Farm, received this award during the 2004 Coffee County Farm City banquet. The award was sponsored by Wayne Farms LLC. The Vanns started in the poultry business in 1998. They are assisted on the farm by their nephew, Zack Ward.



BROILER GROWER OF THE YEAR...Jason and Marsha Farris, owners of Twin Oaks Farm, received this award during the 2004 Coffee County Farm City banquet. The award was sponsored by Wayne Farms LLC. The farm is located in the New Haven community. Jason and Marsha have been growing broilers since April 2001.



LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION WINNER...The Gilmer Grant Farm received this award during the 2004 Coffee County Farm City banquet. The award was presented to Gilmer and Shirley Grant by Michael McCart, president of Coffee County's Cattlemen's Association.



LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION WINNER...The B2 Angus Farm, owned by Glen Barlow, received this award during the 2004 Coffee County Farm City banquet. The award was presented by Michael McCart, president of Coffee County's Cattlemen's Association.



BROILER PRODUCER OF THE YEAR...The Steve Wyrosdick Farm, owned by Steve and Laura Wyrosdick, received this award during the 2004 Coffee County Farm City banquet. The award was sponsored by Pilgrim's Pride. The farm is located in the Basin community. It is a two-house farm which was retrofitted in 2002.

**Congratulations to ALL the
2004 Coffee County Farm City
Award Winners!!**

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION WINNER...The McLeod Farm, owned by Richard and Kathy McLeod, received this award during the 2004 Coffee County Farm City banquet. The award was presented by Michael McCart, president of Coffee County's Cattlemen's Association.



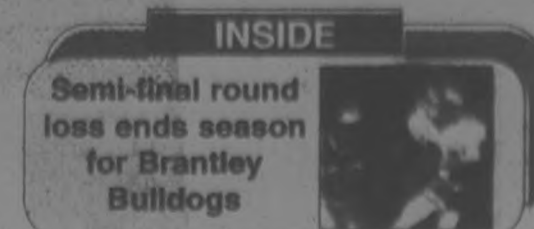
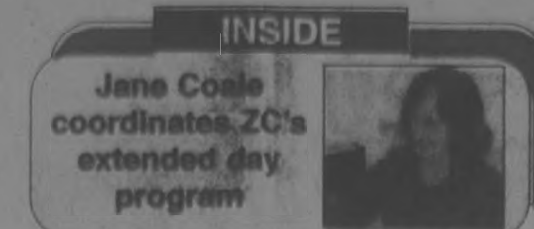
TREASURE FOREST...The Pittman Family Farm, owned by J.E. Pittman, received the forestry award during the 2004 Coffee County Farm City banquet. The farm has been certified as a Treasure Forest by the Alabama Forestry Planning Committee and as a certified Tree Farm by the American Forestry Foundation. It is located south of Elba along the Pea River. Dan Pressley presented the award to Pittman.

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at Cook Chevrolet and Cook Ford

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2003 GME ENVOY SLE - 24,000 Miles - Very Clean	2004 TAHOE LT 3rd Seat - Like New - Only 21,000 Miles - Local Trade	2001 JAGAU 4.0 S Type - very Nice!

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1 Section, 14 Pages Plus 1 Adv. Insert

New Brockton Town Council tables issue regarding change in garbage pickup day

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The New Brockton Town Council worked through a lengthy agenda rather quickly Monday evening, Dec. 6, during the regular monthly meeting of the council.

Mayor Charles Cole began the meeting by notifying council members and those in the audience of a few important upcoming dates. He said the town offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 24, for the Christmas holiday and Friday, Dec. 31, for the New Year's holiday. Also, he said the town's Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration will be Monday, Jan. 17, 2005.

Officer Jerome Cobb, the day-to-day operations manager for the town's police department, presented the monthly police report to council members in which he proposed council members consider having a K-9 dog for the department.

Cobb said he already has a dog that can be trained as a K-9 officer, and he has an officer willing to work with the dog.

Cobb said two benefits of having a K-9 as part of the force are (1) it will help in the continuous fight against drugs, and (2) it is a good public relations tool with children and the community.

"The cost is very minimal," Cobb said. "The biggest expense is purchase and training."

He said both these costs will be covered if the town decides to implement the K-9 program. Cobb said the dog is one he has raised from a puppy, and he has a friend that is a trainer. He said his friend has agreed to train the dog for free.

Council members decided to discuss the issue at the next working group session on Monday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m.

In regards to the police department, Mayor Cole told council members that he has interviewed one person for the chief's position and plans on interviewing a couple more people. He said he will make a recommendation at the next council meeting.

Council member Richard Driskell wondered if the town is really considering offering the position to someone other than officer Cobb. He said he feels Cobb is "doing the job."

Also, Cole said the town currently has two full-time officers in the 90-days probation period. He said once their 90 days are

up, the head of the department will make a recommendation whether to hire them as permanent employees or not.

"By getting these full-time officers, we can eliminate some part-time," Cole said.

Currently, he said the town only has one or two dependable part-time employees.

In other business, the town council:

* Approved its contract renewal with Enterprise Rescue for emergency medical services.

* Tabled an issue regarding a change in the town's household garbage pickup day. Mayor Cole said Arrow asked that the town change its day from Tuesday to Friday. Council member Vicki Harrison said she doesn't like the idea of the change because it will mean trash piled over the weekend will have to wait a whole week before being picked up.

* Approved a one-time pay raise to town employees for Christmas. Full-time employees will receive \$50 and part-time employees will receive \$25.

* Received a report from Cal Donna Howard regarding the recent Christmas pageants. She said the pageant committee donated \$508 from the pageant to the New Brockton Town Fund which is used for matching funds on grants. Howard was co-chair for the event and Barbara Cole was chairperson.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS...The Town of New Brockton officially entered the holiday season last Saturday, Dec. 4, when citizens gathered downtown for the annual Christmas Parade. The spirit of the holiday was definitely in the air as various parade entrants made their way from the New Brockton Elementary School parking lot to Main Street. On Monday evening, Dec. 6, parade committee chairperson Barbara Herron told New Brockton town council members that it was the best and most organized Christmas parade yet, and she already is looking forward to next year's parade. Above, Miss New Brockton Sonya Hornsby, left, and Jr. Miss New Brockton Whitney Donaldson, right, help deliver holiday cheer to the many, many onlookers. Additional scenes from the parade can be found on Page 13.

Mouth watering recipes enjoyed during tasting tea

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Good food and artistry took center stage Monday evening, Dec. 6, at the community room of the county complex in New Brockton when the Coffee County office of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System sponsored a Recipe and Nature Crafts Contest and Tasting Tea.

Peggy Stroud, workshop coordinator for the local extension office, said she was well pleased with the response to first time event. She said there were 18 entries for the crafts contest and 19 entries for the recipe contest.

Stroud was also pleased with



A large crowd of tasters enjoyed the dishes prepared for the recipe contest

the number of "tasters" attending the Tasting Tea. She said

approximately 60-75 people came to enjoy the wonderful dishes prepared for the recipe contest.

The nature crafts contest was divided into two categories: adult and youth - with first, second and third place winners being named in each category. Judges for the nature crafts contest were Marty Harrelson, Donna Clark and Sarah Hutchinson.

The recipe contest also revealed a first, second and third place winner, and many of the local cooks shared their recipes with those attending the

Tasting Tea.

The judges for the recipe contest were Karen Callen, Elsie Hilton and Sam Windham.

Stroud said the event was filled with variety with many different types of entries for the contests. She also said she was pleased to see people from all over the county attend the event.

**** Note:** Photos of the contest winners can be found on Page 14 of this edition of The Elba Clipper.

Coffee County EMS acquires ambulance with City of Elba's help

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Since becoming a non-profit organization, Coffee County EMS employees and board members have been working to maintain operations in a cost effective manner while, at the same time, improving service.

Recently, the organization was able to do both - be cost effective and improve service by updating equipment. However, the organization could not do it alone, and it turned to a familiar friend - the City of Elba.

Bill Dean, treasurer of the Coffee County EMS board, said the organization recently acquired a 1994 Chevrolet ambulance with 52,000 miles from the City of Geneva for \$15,000. He said Geneva could only sell the ambulance city to



With the help of the City of Elba, Coffee County EMS recently was able to acquire this ambulance to add to its fleet. Those standing in front of the vehicle include (from left): Jessica Hegwood, Coffee County EMS employee; Freddie Culver, Coffee County EMS employee; Clay Hegwood, Coffee County EMS employee; Elba Mayor James Grimes; Pat Crosby, Coffee County EMS operations manager; and Bill Dean, treasurer of the Coffee County EMS board.

Please See EMS, Page 2

New Brockton town officials urge citizens to follow trash pickup rules

The New Brockton Town Council urged citizens Monday evening, Dec. 6, during its regular monthly meeting to adhere to rules and regulations regarding trash pickup (leaves, limbs, straw, etc. and/or landfill).

Mayor Charles Cole said some residents had expressed concern regarding trash pickup. He said those residents wanted to know why their trash had not been picked up, and the answer is that trash is not being properly separated.

According to street department officials, there are two kinds of trash picked up by the town: leave and limbs and landfill. (Household garbage pickup is handled by Arrow in the Town of New Brockton). These two types of trash must be separated because they go to two different places.

Leaves, grass and pine straw must be bagged. Limbs cannot exceed 4" in diameter and 4' in length.

Landfill trash consists of items such as metal, wood,

glass, plastic and old appliances. It is also picked up at a separate time from leave and limb trash (Wednesday only).

Cole said he and street department officials have been looking into the trash matters, and there is a list of residences on file at the town hall office of those not separating their trash properly. He said council members should check that list if someone from their district complains about trash pickup.

All officials agreed that until the people do what they are supposed to do by separating the trash, the town can not do what it is supposed to do.

Also during Monday evening's meeting, the street department supervisor presented council members with a proposed list for trash pickup.

Council members previously agreed that a specific order of pickup needed to be established before the town begins charging

Please See TRASH, Page 2

Area Happenings

THE CHOCTAWHATCHEE, PEA AND YELLOW RIVERS Clean Water Partnership Steering Committee and the Choctawhatchee River Basin Committee will meet jointly Thursday, Dec. 9, from 2-4 p.m. at the Coffee County Farm Center, located on Highway 84 in New Brockton, Ala. The Watershed Management Plan that is being developed for these basins will be discussed at this meeting. Anyone interested in the future of the watershed is invited to come.

THE ELBA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE will host a Sweet Sensations Christmas Bake-Off and Tasting Tea Sunday, Dec. 12. Categories of entry will be cakes, pies, candies and cookies. A winner will be named in each category as well as an overall winner. Judging for the bake-off will be held Saturday, Dec. 11. The Chamber's Tasting Tea will be Sunday, Dec. 12, from 1:30-3:30 p.m., where everyone will have an opportunity to taste the prize winning desserts along with a lot of other goodies and door prizes. Tickets for the open house can be purchased at the Elba Chamber of Commerce office, Bradley's Florist, Tangles and Threads and at the Elba Christmas Festival.

THE CITY OF ELBA OFFICES will be closed Friday, Dec. 24, and Monday, Dec. 27, in observance of the Christmas holiday. Also, the offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 31, in observance of the New Year's Day holiday. There will be standby crews for any emergency with electricity, water, sewer or street. To report an emergency, call the Elba Police Department at 897-2355. The garbage schedule will be unchanged.